

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method performed in a search server of initiating a connection via a network for a streaming data item between a client for the streaming data item and a streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the client and the streaming data item server and the client and the search server being accessible to each other via the network, the connection being independent of the search server, and the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a specification of the streaming data item from the client via the network ~~by a search server that is accessible to the client via the network~~;

using the specification ~~by the search server~~ to make a query on a database system that is accessible to the search server, the query returning a first identifier that identifies the streaming data item; and

providing the first identifier and a second identifier ~~from the search server~~ to the streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the second identifier identifying the client; and the first identifier and the second identifier are being used by the streaming data item server to establish the connection ~~with the client~~ between the client and the streaming data item, ~~wherein the connection does not run through the search server~~.

2. (original) The method of initiating a connection set forth in claim 1 wherein:
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;
the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and
the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

3. (original) The method of initiating a connection set forth in claim 1 wherein:
the database system is an object relational database system that includes a table containing an object that represents the streaming data item,
an open method for the object is defined in the database system, the open method returning the first identifier; and
the database system responds to the query by executing the open method and returning the first identifier.

4. (original) The method of initiating a connection set forth in claim 3 wherein:

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

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5. (currently amended) Connection initiation apparatus that has access to a network whereto a streaming data item server that contains a streaming data item and a client for a streaming data item also have access, the connection initiation apparatus comprising:

a search server; and

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a database system to which the search server has access,

the search server responding to a specification of the streaming data item received from the client by using the specification to make a query for the database system, the database system responding to the query by returning a first identifier that identifies the streaming data item and the search server thereupon providing the first identifier and a second identifier that identifies

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the client to the streaming data item server, the first and second identifiers ~~are being~~ used by the streaming data item server to establish a connection for the streaming data item between the client and the streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, ~~wherein the connection does not run through the established connection being independent of the search~~ server.

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6. (original) The connection initiation apparatus set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol; and

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

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the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

7. (original) The connection initiation apparatus set forth in claim 5 wherein:

the database system is an object relational database system that includes a table containing an object that represents the streaming data item,

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an open method for the object is defined in the database system, the open method returning the first identifier; and

the database system responds to the query by executing the open method and returning the first identifier.

8. (original) The connection initiation apparatus set forth in claim 7 wherein:

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol; and

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

9. (currently amended) A method of establishing a connection via a network for a streaming data item between a client for the streaming data item and a streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the client and the streaming data item server being accessible to each other via the network and the method comprising the steps performed in the streaming data item server of:

receiving via the network ~~by the streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item~~ a first identifier that identifies the streaming data item in the streaming data item server and a second identifier that identifies the client, the first and second identifiers being received from a search server, the search server and the client and the search server and the streaming data item server being accessible to each other via the network and the search server using that uses a specification of the streaming data item received from the client via the network to obtain the first identifier; and

using ~~by the streaming data item server~~ the first and second identifiers to establish the connection with the client, ~~wherein the connection does not run through the search server~~ the established connection being independent of the search server.

10. (original) The method of establishing a connection set forth in claim 9 wherein;

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

11. (original) The method of establishing a connection set forth in claim 9 wherein:

the search server further uses the specification to make a query on a database system that is accessible to the search server, the query returning the first identifier.

12. (original) The method of establishing a connection set forth in claim 11 wherein;
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the
network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

13. (original) The method of establishing a connection set forth in claim 9 wherein:
the database system is an object relational database system that includes a table
containing an object that represents the streaming data item,

an open method for the object is defined in the database system, the open method
returning the first identifier; and

the database system responds to the query by executing the open method and returning
the first identifier.

14. (original) The method of establishing a connection set forth in claim 13 wherein;
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the
network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus that establishes a connection, the apparatus having
access to a network to which a client for a streaming data item and a search server also have
access,

the apparatus that establishes a connection comprising:

a streaming data item server that contains and provides streaming data items to clients
via the network; and

a receiver in the streaming data item server,

the receiver receiving a first identifier for the streaming data item and a second identifier for the
client from the search server via the network, the search server ~~using~~ having used a specification
of the streaming data item received from the client via the network to obtain the first identifier
and the receiver providing the first identifier and the second identifier to the streaming data item
server, the streaming data item server using the first identifier and the second identifier to
establish a connection for the streaming data item between the client and the streaming data item

server, ~~wherein the connection does not run through the search server~~ the established connection being independent of the search server.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein:

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein:

the search server further uses the specification to make a query on a database system that is accessible to the search server, the query returning the first identifier.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein:

the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

19. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor implements a method performed in a search server of initiating a connection via a network for a streaming data item between a client for the streaming data item and a streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the client and the streaming data item server and the client and the search server being accessible to each other via the network, the connection being independent of the search server, and the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a specification of the streaming data item from the client via the network ~~by a search server that is accessible to the client via the network;~~

using the specification ~~by the search server~~ to make a query on a database system that is accessible to the search server, the query returning a first identifier that identifies the streaming data item;

providing the first identifier and a second identifier ~~from the search server~~ to the streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the second identifier

identifying the client and the first identifier and the second identifier ~~are being~~ used by the streaming data item server to establish the connection between the client and the streaming data item ~~with the client, wherein the connection does not run through the search server.~~

- 5 20. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 19 further characterized in that:
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;
the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and
the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

- 10 21. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 19 further characterized in that:
the database system is an object relational database system that includes a table containing an object that represents the streaming data item,
an open method for the object is defined in the database system, the open method
15 returning the first identifier; and
the database system responds to the query by executing the open method and returning the first identifier.

- 20 22. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 21 further characterized in that:
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;
the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and
the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

- 25 23. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:
the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor implements a method of establishing a connection via a network for a streaming data item between a client for the streaming data item and a streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item, the client and the streaming data item server being accessible to each other via the network and the
30 method comprising the steps of:
receiving via the network ~~by the streaming data item server that contains the streaming data item~~ a first identifier that identifies the streaming data item in the streaming data item server and a second identifier that identifies the client, the first and second identifiers being

received from a search server, the search server and the client and the search server and the streaming data item server being accessible to each other via the network and the search server using that uses a specification of the streaming data item received from the client via the network to obtain the first identifier; and

5 using by the streaming data item server the first and second identifiers to establish the connection with the client, wherein the connection does not run through the search server the established connection being independent of the search server.

24. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 23 further characterized in that:
10 the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and
the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

25. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 23 further characterized in that:
15 the search server further uses the specification to make a query on a database system that is accessible to the search server, the query returning the first identifier.

26. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:
20 the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and
the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.

27. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 23 further characterized in that:
25 the database system is an object relational database system that includes a table containing an object that represents the streaming data item,

an open method for the object is defined in the database system, the open method
30 returning the first identifier; and

the database system responds to the query by executing the open method and returning the first identifier.

28. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:
the client, the streaming data item server, and the search server communicate via the
network using the HTTP protocol;

the first identifier is a URL for the streaming data item; and

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the second identifier is a current IP address for the client.